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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER AND  
REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME  
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)**

Docket Number:  
11641/30

Application No.  
10/033,863

Filing Date  
December 19, 2001

Examiner  
Jerry A.  
Lorengo

Art Unit  
1734

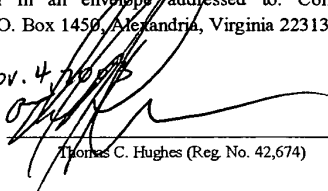
Invention Title:  
**APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR HANDLING  
MEMBRANES**

Inventor(s)  
**Aaron RAPHEL et al.**

Address to:  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on

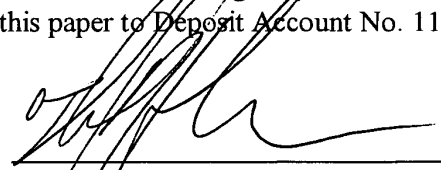
Date: Nov. 4, 2003

Signature:   
Thomas C. Hughes (Reg. No. 42,674)

1. Transmitted herewith for filing in the above identified patent application is a Response to an Office Action dated September 4, 2003.
2. Applicants respectfully request a one month extension of time in which to respond to the Office Action mailed September 4, 2003 for which a response period expiring on October 4, 2003 was set. The extended period expires on November 4, 2003.
3. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) extension fee of **\$55.00** to the deposit account of **Kenyon & Kenyon**, deposit account number **11-0600**. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.
4. A duplicate copy of this form is enclosed.

Dated: November 4, 2003

By:

  
Thomas C. Hughes (Reg. No. 42,674)  
**KENYON & KENYON**  
One Broadway  
New York, N.Y. 10004  
(212) 425-7200 (telephone)  
(212) 425-5288 (facsimile)  
**CUSTOMER NO. 26646**

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